Discussion

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Exploring Islam

Quran was revealed to Muhammad (PBUH) during the month of Ramadan in 610. Quran is “code of conduct” for Muslims, taking into account that it comprises of guidelines that can make a Muslim successful today and in the world hereafter. Muslims have some central beliefs and these beliefs are reflected in the five pillars as well. The first pillar is profession of faith asserting Muslim’s staunch believe in oneness of God, second pillar Salat infers Muslims believe that a man should offer prayer five times a day. Zakat is the concept that reflects Muslim ideology to serve the needy and poor. Muslims believe that they should sacrifice their will for God's will, the crux of the fourth pillar, fasting. Muslims believe that they should go on pilgrimage if they have potential and it is also the fifth pillar of Islam. There are different Muslim groups, such as Sunni, Shia, and Ibadi. Sunni and Shia are the two major groups, both of them differ in terms of political roots paving the way for the difference in spiritual understanding as well. Sunni appoints no successor in prophethood after Muhammad, they follow Muhammad’s father in law and his friend Abu Bakar Siddique as religious leaders. Contrary, Shia believe that Ali Ibn Abi Talib was chosen as a successor after Muhammad by Muhammad himself. They don’t believe that they will see God of the day of judgment. However, both the sects believe that God is one and all-powerful. Both the groups believe in angels, demons, and devil. Both groups follow the five pillars of Islam. Secular world negates the idea of association such as religious attachment, and freedom of consciousness. There are a number of other aspects to consider such as understanding of good and evil. An example of this ideology is, Muslims don’t believe in extramarital relationships but secular words find no complication in any kind of emotional relationship.